Our first priority remains providing outstanding educational opportunities for all deserving students so that they may lead productive and rewarding lives. In order to do that, we have no choice but to ensure that we can recruit and retain superior faculty.

— Chancellor Daniel W. Jones
I vividly recall the professor who changed my academic life. He didn’t convince me to shift majors or set me on a new career path, but he taught me that exploring very different subjects was exciting. When I learned that it is difficult for Ole Miss to match or exceed salaries offered by other southeastern universities, I thought of that professor and was convinced that I and others must help financially to attract and retain the best.

— Alumnus Dennis Moore, Deputy Managing Editor, USA Today
An Investment
In Teaching & Research Excellence

Dedicated professors define the University of Mississippi’s academic reputation. The influence they wield is indisputable – and invaluable. The scholars who make up our faculty not only share their vast knowledge with our students; they fuel a love of learning, expand understanding of the world and ignite passion for public service. In short, they create leaders.

An investment in these scholars then is an investment in our students, and subsequently in our academic reputation. Only by recruiting and retaining top faculty are we able to recruit and retain the brightest students, and only with the most capable and deserving students are we able to maintain our reputation as a premier public university.

Our faculty have garnered international acclaim through their outstanding teaching and vibrant research. Now, though, stiff competition exists among leading universities to retain and recruit the brightest scholars. In order to ensure that we can successfully compete with these institutions, the University of Mississippi has launched the Barnard Initiative to invest $100 million in teaching and research excellence.

There’s likely much to understand about the daily lives of our professors. Beyond teaching and conducting research, they advise students, serve on administrative committees, lead professional organizations, compete for research funding, publish findings and recruit prospective students. And as UM’s enrollment steadily increases, our faculty take on more and more responsibility to ensure that all students receive the instruction and mentoring they need to excel, both at Ole Miss and beyond.

Ole Miss’ many accomplished alumni – the tens of thousands who enjoy successful careers and meaningful lives – offer the best proof of our faculty’s success in providing educational...
Frederick A. P. Barnard
A Legacy of Excellence

The Barnard Initiative is named for one of UM’s most influential leaders, Frederick A. P. Barnard, a renowned scientist who provided leadership as chancellor from 1856 to 1861, before going on to serve as president at New York’s Columbia University. Included in the Barnard Initiative are gifts specified for the creation of named chairs, professorships and lectureships as well as unrestricted gifts to the Barnard Endowment for Faculty Support. Gifts to the endowment will provide a permanent stream of salary and research support for faculty and thus a critical margin of excellence for current and future generations of Ole Miss students.

experiences that are both challenging and nurturing. Our alumni’s immeasurable impact on the social and economic health of our state, nation and world is in many cases a direct result of the dedicated professors who taught and mentored them. We owe it not only to our current and future faculty then but also to future generations of our students to invest in the teaching and research of our faculty scholars who are positively influencing young minds and the world far beyond the walls of their classrooms and labs.
Will Norton
Dean and Professor of Journalism and New Media

As founding dean of the newly created Meek School of Journalism and New Media, Norton is ensuring that journalism education meets the challenges of an ever-evolving news industry. He recruits professional journalists to the faculty and believes in hands-on experiences for students through student-run media outlets. He emphasizes depth reporting and encourages students to travel abroad to explore issues. Norton has served as the president of the two top journalism education organizations and has earned awards from the Scripps Howard Foundation and others for his work.

Gregory L. Easson
Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering

Easson and his group, LumiMap-UM, are working with the international aid organization World Vision to create technological solutions for field mapping. This work aids in disaster-preparedness-and-relief projects, primarily in developing countries, where there are often no maps or street names, but it was also critical in Mississippi’s response to Hurricane Katrina. He currently directs UM’s Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute, where he exposes students to contemporary research on natural resources and the environment.
The Van Nesses garner national attention as managing editors of *The Financial Review*, one of the top 15 journals in their field. Having the journal based at Ole Miss reflects the distinguished reputations of these two School of Business Administration professors, who bring their vast knowledge of the financial markets into their classrooms every day. They specialize in market microstructure, examining changes in financial markets – work that has received recognition from the New York Stock Exchange.
Philip Jackson  
Assistant Professor of Art  

An emerging force in contemporary realist painting, Jackson brings the reality of the art world to his students, preparing them for the practical applications of their work. His methodology is rooted in the history of painting, but he encourages students to present a relevant, contemporary message. Jackson’s work has earned numerous awards, appeared in many national and international juried exhibitions, is part of the permanent collections of several museums, and has been featured in such magazines as American Artist and Art in America.
Mark Wilder  
Dean and KPMG Professor of Accountancy

The instrumental work of Wilder is seen in the Patterson School of Accountancy’s highly successful internship program, where students acquire real-world experience in top firms. Additionally, the school has earned rankings among the top 30 accounting programs nationally for five consecutive years – and in the top 20 for the past two. Wilder, who teaches financial accounting, has been recognized with the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Outstanding Educator award among many others.

Stephen J. Cutler  
Chair and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry

Cutler enjoys the classroom, as evidenced by his nine teaching awards. There, he drives his pharmacy students to integrate knowledge of medical science with outstanding patient care. His research focusing on natural products and their effects on the central nervous system, as well as anti-infective agents, has generated funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. departments of Defense and Agriculture.
Deborah H. Bell  
Professor of Law  

Bell works continuously with students to improve access to the justice system. She founded the Civil Legal Clinic and oversaw its growth to include the Elder Law, Child Advocacy, Street Law, Low-income Taxpayer and Housing clinics, all of which train hundreds of students to assist Mississippians who cannot afford legal services. In 2005 Bell organized UM law students and volunteers across the country to create the Hurricane Katrina Legal Assistance Manual for use by the Mississippi Bar in responding to post-hurricane legal needs.

Rosie D. Bartee  
Associate Professor of Leadership and Counselor Education  

Bartee keeps her finger on the pulse of American education to determine progress made and improvements needed. Bartee shares with her students broad knowledge and critical insights into how internal and external factors influence academic achievement and social attainment. Before joining UM, she served as associate director of the Reading First Teacher Education Network, a federally funded $4.5 million teacher education restructuring initiative with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
Tom Mosley
Professor of Medicine

A widely recognized expert on dementia and brain aging, Mosley is leading the newly created Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center at the UM Medical Center campus. The clinical neuroscientist currently garners more National Institutes of Health funding than anyone else in the country for his research into Alzheimer's and other forms of age-related dementia. Mosley is leading collaborations of scientists around the globe to examine how and why the brain ages.

Deirdre Cooper Owens
Assistant Professor of History

Owens begins her lectures by recounting a historical story and linking its larger themes to students’ lives – an approach that heightens critical engagement. Her research is focused on understanding how slavery in the South and immigration in the North impacted modern American medicine, particularly in regard to women’s health. For this work, which she is now expanding into a book, she received the Mary Wollstonecraft Dissertation Award, recognizing UCLA’s most outstanding doctoral paper on women or gender using historic materials or methods.
Combating childhood obesity – one of Mississippi’s most pressing public health issues – is a passion of Carithers. The nutrition epidemiologist provides leadership to faculty and students evaluating school nutrition across Mississippi. Initiated by the Center for Mississippi Health Policy and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this work assesses the impact of legislative policies on reducing childhood obesity rates – a priority since obesity is a known precursor to many chronic diseases.

Naming Opportunities

Tax-deductible gifts of all sizes are appreciated, and unlimited opportunities are available to invest in the teaching and research of University of Mississippi faculty, including several naming opportunities:

- **Chair**
  - $1.5 million and above

- **Scholar**
  - $1 million and above

- **Professorship**
  - $500,000 and above

- **Lectureship**
  - $250,000 and above

- **Excellence in Teaching Endowment**
  - $25,000 and above
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More than anything else, Ole Miss has taught me the value of investing time and energy into people and relationships. I can't imagine my college experience without professors who knew my name and were genuinely interested in my success.

— Student Chelsea Caveny, Truman Scholar